

Stebbins

London

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20 August 1958

Dear Ledyard:

I saw Mort' Starr at Stockholm and learned that your department was crystallizing plans for expansion in microbial/biochemical genetics, and was soliciting concrete suggestions.

Depending on the level of the appointment, I can suggest two: Dave Nanney (at Michigan) and Gaylen Bradley (at Minnesota). You probably know Nanney pretty well; when I get home to Madison I can send fuller details on both Nanney and Bradley. Bradley works on the genetics of actinomyces; he took his Ph.D. with Maurice Sussman (who is now at Brandeis Univ., Biology) on chemical embryology of slime molds, then did a 2 yr. postdoctoral with me. There should be several other attractive candidates.

All this could wait except that one of the people Mort mentioned would be a terrible mistake, in my opinion, and I would look forward to an opportunity to offer my views in a more congenial private conversation. It happens we are returning via San Francisco and will be at Stanford September 5-10 for obvious business. Is there any chance of finding you at Berkeley or San Francisco in that interval? I will definitely be in Berkeley on the 8th; it might be ~~difficult~~ difficult for us to intercalate a trip to Davis this time, but I hope you don't regret the prospect of seeing more of us after next July. A note or phone call can reach me c/o Dean Alway's office, Medical School, Stanford (DA 3 9411 Ext 2009)/.

The prospects for continued growth and strong cooperation in genetics in the SF area are very exciting to me; I don't know where else you'd find 3 Departments of Genetics in a comparable area. Needless to say I welcome an opportunity to discuss our own plans with you.

I had rather hoped that Jim Crow would come out to Stanford with me, and we did make what I still consider to be a strong offer. However, he appears to have decided to take over ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ as head of Medical Genetics at Wisconsin, though this may still be tentative. Together with the people in Biochemistry (viz. Kornberg-Dale Kaiser-Mel Cohn) and Biology (Perkins-Yanofsky), I think that microbiological genetics is reasonably well represented in the ~~Stanford program~~ medical school, I think we will focus on developing a program in mammalian material, along lines that might be called 'somatic cell' genetics — transplantation & tissue culture. While 'applied human genetics' will probably get more attention from one of the clinical departments, we should probably be looking for someone whose talents parallel Jim's or Newton Morton's. If you have any thoughts for either of these directions, I hope we can discuss them next month.

With best regards,

Yours

Joshua Lederberg

Stebbins  
G.L.